

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07 AID-05 ACDA-07
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P R 231419Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1857
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04799

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, CENTO
SUBJECT: VISIT TO LONDON OF CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL
BAYULKEN

1. CENTO DESK OFFICER IN FCO, MCCLUNEY, BRIEFED EMBOFF
ON VISIT OF CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN TO LONDON
MARCH 21-22, AS FOLLOWS: BAYULKEN WAS PARTICULARLY CON-
CERNED ABOUT PAKISTAN. ALTHOUGH PAKISTAN HAS NOT SAID IT
WOULD LEAVE CENTO, BAYULKEN IS RECEIVING WARNINGS THAT IT
MIGHT. HE FELT IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENCOURAGE PAKISTAN TO
STAY IN, AND TO ACHIEVE THIS SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND
THE UK DO THE FOLLOWING: A) PROVIDE THE PAKISTANI AIR
FORCE WITH DEFENSIVE AIRCRAFT (ALTHOUGH HE SAID AS AN
ASIDE THAT THE PAKISTANIS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE AS IN-
TERESTED IN SUCH AIRCRAFT AS THEY WERE); B) PROVIDE
PAKISTAN WITH A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT SINCE INDIANS
HAVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES (TO WHICH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN
REPLIED FIRMLY THAT THE UK IS CONCERNED ABOUT NUCLEAR
PROLIFERATION AND DOES NOT SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL); AND
C) USING FUNDS FROM INTERNATIONAL SOURCES, SUPPORT ONE OR
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TWO CENTO ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN THE INTERESTS OF MAKING A
FAVORABLE IMPACT ON PAKISTANI PUBLIC OPINION SO THAT
CENTO WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PAKISTANIS.

2. BAYULKEN RAISED THE CYPRUS ISSUE WITH OWEN'S DEPUTY,
FCO MINISTER OF STATE JUDD, ASKING THE BRITISH TO PUT
PRESSURE ON CARAMANLIS TO "MAKE THE GREEK CYPRIOTS TAKE

THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS MORE SERIOUSLY".

3. BAYULKEN TOLD THE BRITISH THAT HE HAD SEEN THE SHAH EARLY THIS MONTH AND HAS FOUND THAT OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS THE SHAH HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE DISSATISFIED WITH CENTO AND IS FINDING ITS PROSPECTS DARKER. THE SHAH, BAYULKEN SAID, IS ANGRY AT BEING CRITICIZED FOR BUILDING UP HIS ARMAMENTS.

4. BAYULKEN SAID THAT DELIBERATIONS ON THE POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER FOR THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN GOING WELL RECENTLY, AND HE HOPED THEY COULD BE CONCLUDED SOON. (THE FCO IS NOT SO HOPEFUL.) BAYULKEN SAID HE HAS IN MIN A PROPOSAL THAT THE CENTO PARTNERS MIGHT SIGN OR ISSUE AN UNDERTAKING TO SAFEGUARD PAKISTAN IN THE EVENT OF AGGRESSION. HE DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT THIS WOULD BE, BUT WILL ISSUE A DRAFT WHEN HE RETURNS TO ANKARA. HE REALIZES THAT NO ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT FROM THE WESTERN MEMBERS IS POSSIBLE, BUT HE PROPOSES SOMETHING WITHIN THE EXISTING COMMITMENTS AND CHARTER SO AS TO REASSURE PAKISTAN.

5. HE GAVE THREE REASONS FOR THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF CENTO: A) IT IS VALUABLE IN PINNING DOWN SOVIET FORCES; B) IT HAS AN IMPORTANT GEO-POLITICAL ROLE; AND C) IT IS A MEANS OF GUARANTEEING THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL BY SERVING AS A USEFUL BALANCING FACTOR IN THE AREA IN THE OVERALL MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT. (THE FCO DESK OFFICERS WERE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY BAYULKEN'S RATIONALE IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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LATTER TWO REASONS.)

6. DURING A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY JUDD ON MARCH 21, AT WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF CENTO WERE PRESENT, BAYULKEN GAVE THE USUAL BRIEF INFORMAL ADDRESS ON THE OUTLOOK FOR CENTO. DURING TWO PASSAGES HE LOOKED MEANINGFULLY AT THE U.S. EMBOFF PRESENT: WHEN HE NOTED THAT IT IS ILLOGICAL FOR NATO MEMBERS TO URGE OTHER NATO COUNTRIES TO SPEND MORE ON ARMAMENTS BUT THEN CRITICIZE THE SHAH FOR DOING THE SAME, AND WHEN HE EXTOLLED THE VALUE OF TURKEY AS AN ALLY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE SUPPLY OF ARMS TO TURKEY WOULD SOON BE SOLVED. (FCO OFFICERS PRESENT, WEIR AND LUCAS, LATER AGREED WITH EMBOFF THAT THESE REMARKS IN PARTICULAR WERE DIRECTED AT THE USG.) BAYULKEN ALSO TOLD THE BRITISH PRIVATELY THAT IN WASHINGTON HE WOULD GIVE THE USG "A HARDER TIME THAN HE HAD GIVEN HMG."

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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